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Irregular growth in Chlamys islandica (Müller, 1776)

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A remarkable shell was found in 1969 during an examination of the intertidal zone of the small island of Fjellvaeröy, at the entrance to Trondheimsfjorden, Norway. The shell consists of two empty valves, each having a length of 51 mm, height 48 mm, and width 32 mm. On closer examination the shell was identified as *Chlamys islandica* (Müller, 1776) (fig. 1).

C. islandica has a mainly subarctic, discontinuous circumpolar, distribution, but does not occur in typical, high arctic sea areas (Ockelmann, 1958).

Observation of the shell surface showed that growth had been regular until a length of 12 mm had been attained, thereafter it was quite irregular. This made the specimen difficult to recognize, but the pattern of the ribs and the intercostal sculpture, however, revealed its specific identity.

The recorded specimen, without doubt, had been dead for some considerable time, since the inside of the shell was corroded and the ligament was almost completely decomposed. The possibility that the shell is in reality a subfossil cannot be excluded.

Thanks are due to Mr. Ö. Stokland for collecting the specimen and handing it over to the Museum. I am also indebted to Dr. K.W. Ockelmann for help with the identification.

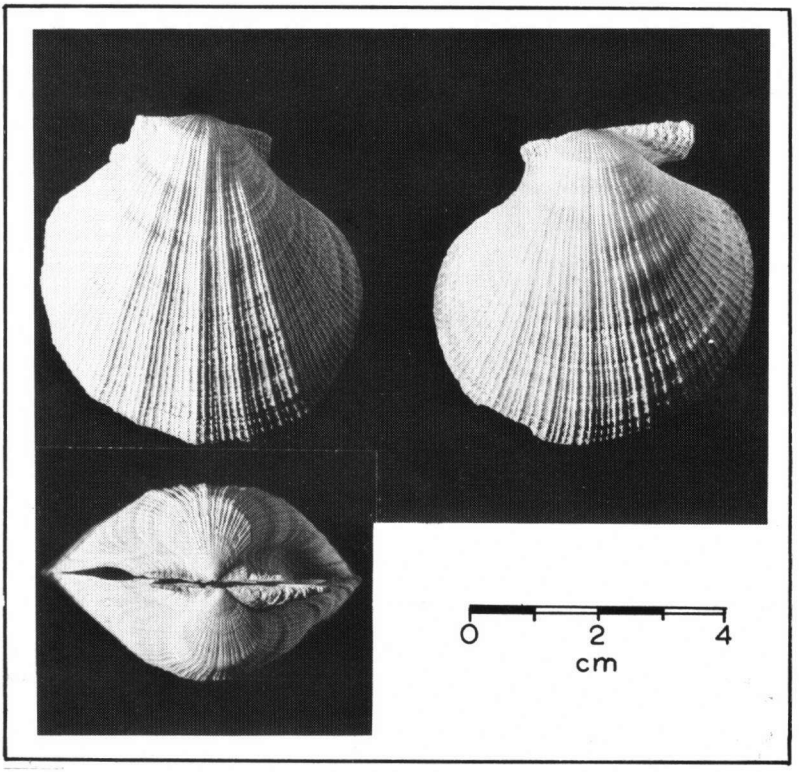

Fig. 1. Specimen of *Chlamys islandica* (Müll.) showing irregular growth; note the initial zone, within which normal growth had taken place.

REFERENCE

OCKELMANN, K.W., 1958. The zoology of east Greenland. Marine Lamellibranchiata. – Meddr Grönland 122 (4): 1-256.